

REMARKS

This supplements the Response filed 6 July 2009 and provides the requisite Interview Summary of the personal interview conducted 11 August 2009. By this Response, claim 6 has been canceled as not further limiting the scope of claim 1.¹ Support may be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Reconsideration in view of the interview of 11 August 2009 is respectfully requested.

Interview of 11 August 2009

Applicants appreciate the Examiner and his Supervisor, Glenn Caldarola, taking the time to conduct a personal interview on 11 August 2009.

During the interview, Applicants noted that the claimed invention is directed to a pretreatment process comprising pretreating the metal walls of a reactor with a mixture of a silicon compound and a sulphur compound (i.e. hexamethyldisiloxane + dimethyldisulfide) in steam.

Once the Supervisor correctly focused the discussion and analysis on “pretreatment”, the Examiners agreed that the art of record teaches away from pretreating with sulfur and silicon compounds in steam as a carrier. In particular, the Examiners recognized that: (1) Zimmerman ‘192 (US 5,922,192) states that steam as the carrier gas for trimethylsilylmethyl mercaptan is not suitable for pretreatment; (2) in all the pretreatments in Zimmerman ‘176 (US 5,849,176), pretreatment was with trimethylsilylmethyl mercaptan in a mixture of hydrogen and methane as the carrier; and (3) the disclosure of Reed (US 5,656,150) does not overcome the teaching away by Zimmerman ‘192.

Specifically, the Examiners agreed that the Examiner’s previous premise (that it would have been obvious to pretreat using a Si + S mixture (i.e. hexamethyldisiloxane + dimethyldisulfide) in steam since Zimmerman ‘176 discloses that a Si + S mixture is equivalent to a Si/S compound (e.g. trimethylsilylmethyl mercaptan) when used as a feed additive and Reed discloses a pretreatment process using a silicon compound in steam) fails in view of Zimmerman ‘192 teaching that pretreating with trimethylsilylmethyl mercaptan in steam does not work.

¹ Claims 14 and 15 are not redundant to claim 1 as the claims refer to the compounds added to the feedstock after the pretreatment process of claim 1.

In view of the fact that the art of record teaches away from the pretreatment with a Si/S compound in steam, Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to pretreat with a Si + S mixture in steam with a reasonable likelihood of success.

Therefore, the claimed invention is unobvious and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should properly be withdrawn.

Request for Interview

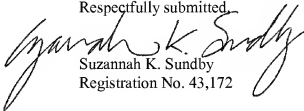
Either a telephonic or an in-person interview is respectfully requested should there be any remaining issues.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Official action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 024300**, Attorney Docket No. **033808.172**.

Respectfully submitted,



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